

65C-25.006 Health and Safety

(1) General Requirements.

(a) When window or doors of the child care facility for mildly ill children are left opened, they must be screened to prevent entrance of any insect or rodent. Screens are not required for open air classrooms and picnic areas.

(b) Following personal hygiene procedures for themselves or when assisting others, employees, volunteers, and children shall wash their hands with soap and running water, drying thoroughly with disposable towels. Only soap from a liquid soap dispenser shall be used for hand washing.

(c) A child care facility for mildly ill children shall ensure that safe drinking water and other fluids consistent with the child's physical condition are available at all times to all children in care. Drinking fountains shall not be used.

(d) Only single-service articles, per Rule 65C-25.001(8), F.A.C., may be used for eating and drinking. Children may bring labeled items for their exclusive use, which must be returned to the parent or legal guardian on a daily basis.

(e) If the children are sleeping overnight in the facility, child care staff must ensure accepted bedtime routines are maintained, such as brushing teeth and face and hand washing. Toothbrushes, towels and wash cloths may not be shared.

(2) Diapering Requirements

(a) Hand washing facilities, which include a basin with running water, disposable towels, disposable gloves, liquid soap, and trash receptacle, shall be available in the infant room or in the room where children with special needs in diapers are in care. Hands shall be washed and dried thoroughly after each diapering or toileting procedure to prevent the transmission of diseases or illnesses to other children in the facility's care.

(b) When children in diapers are in care, there shall be a diaper changing area with an impermeable surface which is cleaned with a sanitizing solution after each use. Children must be attended at all times when being diapered or when changing clothes.

(c) Diaper changing shall be in a separate area from the feeding or food service area.

(d) There shall be a supply of clean disposable diapers, clothing and sanitized linens at all times, which shall be changed or removed promptly when soiled or wet.

(e) Soiled disposable diapers shall be disposed of in a plastic lined, securely covered container, which is not accessible to children. The container shall be emptied and sanitized at least daily.

(f) When children require cloth diapers, only those brought from the child's home may be used, and must be returned to the parent at the end of the day.

(g) Soiled cloth diapers shall be emptied of feces in the toilet and placed in a securely covered container which is not accessible to children. The container shall be emptied and sanitized daily.

(h) Disposable gloves shall be used during all diaper changing activities. Gloves shall be discarded after use on each child, following disposal of disposable diapers or rinsing and sanitizing of cloth diapers. After gloves are discarded, personnel shall wash their hands and the hands of the child prior to sanitizing the diaper changing station.

(3) Equipment and Furnishings.

(a) Indoor Equipment

1. A child care facility for mildly ill children shall make available toys, equipment and furnishings suitable to each child's age and development and of a quantity for each child to be involved in activities.
2. Toys, equipment and furnishings must be safe and maintained in a sanitary condition.
3. All washable toys, equipment and furniture used for one group of children with similar diagnosis in a child care facility for mildly ill children shall be washed and disinfected before being used by another group of children.
4. Non-washable toys brought from home may not be shared, and shall be sent home daily.

(b) Outdoor Equipment

1. If the facility chooses to provide outdoor play space, equipment shall be securely anchored, unless portable by design, in good repair, maintained in safe condition, and placed to ensure safe usage by the children. Maintenance shall include routine checks of all supports, above and below the ground, all connectors, and moving parts.
2. Permanent playground equipment must have a ground cover or other protective surface under the equipment which provides resilience and is maintained to reduce the incidence of injuries to children in the event of falls.
3. All equipment, fences, and objects on the facility's premises shall be free of sharp, broken and jagged edges and properly placed to prevent overcrowding or safety hazards in any one area.
4. All equipment used in the outdoor play area shall be constructed to allow for water drainage and maintained in a safe and sanitary condition.

(4) Fire Safety.

(a) Unless statutorily exempted, all child care facilities for mildly ill children shall conform to state standards adopted by the State Fire Marshal, Chapter 4A-36, Florida Administrative Code, Uniform Standards for Life Safety and Fire Prevention in Child Care Facilities and shall be inspected annually. A copy of the current and approved annual fire inspection report by a certified fire inspector must be on file with the department or local licensing agency.

(b) There shall be at least one operable, readily accessible telephone in the child care facility which is neither locked nor located at a pay station and is available to all staff during the hours of operation, even in the event of a power outage.

(c) Child care facilities for mildly ill children shall conduct monthly fire drills when children are in care. Subject to local fire authority's approval, evacuation of the premises shall not be required, however, facilities shall ensure that the children are taken at least to the point of exit. A current attendance record must accompany staff during a drill or actual evacuation and be used to account for all children.

(5) Emergency Procedures.

(a) At least one first aid kit containing materials to administer first aid must be maintained on the premises of all child care facilities for mildly ill children, at all times. Each kit shall be in a closed container and labeled "First Aid". The kit(s) shall be accessible to the child care staff at all times and kept out of the reach of children. Each kit must include:

1. soap,
2. Band-aids or equivalent,
3. disposable latex gloves,

4. cotton balls or applicators,
5. sterile gauze pads and rolls,
6. adhesive tape,
7. thermometer,
8. tweezers,
9. in date syrup of ipecac, labeled “DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING UNLESS DIRECTED TO DO SO BY A PHYSICIAN OR POISON CONTROL 1-800-282-3171”,
10. pre-moistened wipes,
11. scissors, and
12. a current resource guide on first aid and CPR procedures.

(b) Procedures and Notification

1. Emergency telephone numbers, including ambulance, fire, police, poison control center, Florida Abuse Hotline, and the address of and directions to the facility, must be posted on or near all facility telephones and shall be used as necessary to protect the health, safety and well-being of any child in care.
2. Custodial parents or legal guardians shall be notified immediately in the event of any significant change in a child’s illness or symptoms, accident or injuries sustained at the facility, which are more serious than minor cuts and scratches, and their specific instructions regarding action to be taken under such circumstances shall be obtained and followed. If the custodial parent or legal guardian cannot be reached, the facility operator will contact those persons designated by the custodial parent or legal guardian to be contacted under these circumstances, and shall follow any written instructions provided by the custodial parent or legal guardian on the enrollment or registration form.
3. Child care facilities for mildly ill children shall make arrangements with the parent or legal guardian for obtaining medical evaluation or treatment for a child, if necessary as determined by the licensed health caregiver and program policies.
4. Child care facilities for mildly ill children shall obtain emergency medical treatment without specific parental instruction when the parent or legal guardian cannot be reached, and the nature of the illness or symptoms or injury is such that there should be no delay in obtaining medical treatment, as determined by the licensed health caregiver or other qualified health professional.
5. Child care facilities for mildly ill children shall call the parent or legal guardian immediately when a child’s illness or symptoms worsen to the degree that the child meets criteria for exclusion from the program, as outlined in Rule 65C-25.002(4), F.A.C.
6. All accidents and incidents which occur at a facility must be documented and shared with the custodial parent or legal guardian on the day they occur.

(6) Dispensing of Medication.

(a) Prescription and non-prescription medication brought to the child care facility for mildly ill children by the custodial parent or legal guardian must be in the original container. Prescription medication must have a label stating the name of the physician or ARNP, child’s name, name of the medication, and medication directions. All prescription and non-prescription medication shall be dispensed according to written directions on the prescription label or printed manufacturer’s label.

(b) Medicines shall be stored separately and locked or placed out of a child’s reach.

(c) Medication shall be returned to the parent or legal guardian at the end of each day.

(7) Minimum Health Requirements – Tuberculosis.

(a) Upon hire, each employee of a child care facility for mildly ill children, must provide documentation of a tuberculosis test administered within the past two years and this documentation must be in the employee's personnel file within 10 days of employment. If results are positive, the employee must provide written medical authorization to work in a child care facility.

(b) All personnel in child care facilities for mildly ill children with previous negative tuberculosis test, must be re-tested for tuberculosis at least every two years and provide documentation for their personnel file. If results are positive, the employee must provide written medical authorization to work in a child care facility.

(c) All personnel in child care facilities for mildly ill children with previous positive tuberculosis test, must be evaluated every two years for symptoms of tuberculosis, and provide written medical authorization to work in a child care facility.

Specific Authority 402.305 FS.

Law Implemented 402.305 FS.

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